United Nations S/2000/303

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 April 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 7 April 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

By its resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, the Security Council assumed responsibility for the situation in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, committing itself to providing a secure environment for all residents of Kosovo and Metohija, disarming the terrorists of the so-called "Kosovo Liberation Army" (KLA), establishing a multi-ethnic and multicultural character of the province and guaranteeing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Since the deployment of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK), the situation in Kosovo and Metohija has drastically deteriorated. Over 350,000 Serbs, Montenegrins, Roma, Muslims, Goranci and other non-Albanians have been forcibly expelled, while the terrorists are increasingly targeting also Albanians themselves, the loyal citizens of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In the period from 10 June 1999 to 30 March 2000, 4,564 terrorist attacks were committed, 936 persons were killed, 876 persons wounded and 867 abducted, most of them Serbs and Montenegrins. Over 50,000 houses and 85 Serbian churches and medieval monasteries have been burned down or severely damaged.

There is a worrisome tendency of departing from the goals of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), of which the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia continually warned. In particular, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has pointed to the responsibility of the Security Council for the implementation of the resolution and called on the Security Council on a number of occasions to send a delegation to visit the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Letters of H.E. Mr. Vladislav Jovanovic, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations, of 3 November 1999 (S/1999/1124) and 3 April 2000 (S/2000/284) respectively).

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has always insisted on a consistent implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), respect for the mandate of UNMIK and KFOR and on the central role of the Security Council in considering the implementation of the resolution. It has opposed the attempts to place these issues out of the competence of the Security Council, as guarantor of resolution 1244 (1999) and the organ responsible for its implementation.

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The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has learned that a mission of the Security Council is envisaged to make a visit to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, i.e., the Republic of Serbia and its autonomous province of Kosovo and Metohija, to which, if indeed it does take place, it attaches great importance. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is of the opinion that the visit is an expression of the readiness and openness of the Security Council to familiarize itself in greater detail with the situation in Kosovo and Metohija. At the same time, it considers that the visit demonstrates the resolve of the Security Council to take steps to halt the ongoing trend of the violation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the relevant documents.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia kindly requests the Security Council to advise whether and when a mission of the Security Council is coming to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, i.e., to Kosovo and Metohija, as well as of other relevant particulars of such a visit, so that it could provide the mission appropriate assistance and cooperation in fulfilling its mandate.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Branislav **Srdanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.